PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: December 2, 2008   Number: 08-11

Subject: Common Standards: Edits adopted and schedule for transitioning to the newly adopted Common Standards

Summary:
This notice is to alert all institutions that the Commission adopted edits to its Common Standards at the November 2008 Commission meeting. The edits do not substantively modify the Common Standards except with reference to Common Standard 8: District Employed Supervisors.

Background:
In June 2007 the Commission adopted revised Common Standards. This revision of the Common Standards was the first time the standards had undergone a full review and revision since their adoption in 1997.

Major changes in the revised Common Standards (2007):
1. Include a focus on a unit and program assessment system.
2. Address the institution's responsibility to ensure that all approved programs assess candidate competence.
3. Require institutions to implement and monitor a credential recommendation process.

During Spring 2008, the Commission directed staff to review the revised Common Standards with the Committee on Accreditation and other stakeholders to ensure their applicability to 1) the variety of approved program sponsors including universities, colleges, school districts, county offices of education and other entities; and 2) the full range of educator preparation programs that are approved by the Commission including teaching and service credentials, at both the initial and advanced level, as well as certificate programs.

Edits were then made to ensure language that would be applicable to all program sponsors and the full range of educator preparation programs. The standards the Commission adopted in November 2008 are the product of this work and can be found on the Commission's web page: http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/STDS-common.html In addition, the Committee on Accreditation approved an accompanying Common Standards Glossary to help clarify and define

terms as they apply to all types of programs and program sponsors. This Glossary should be used by program sponsors and accreditation reviewers alike to ensure a common understanding of Common Standard terminology.

The only substantive change to the Common Standards (2008) from the revised version adopted in 2007 is in reference to Common Standard 8. The adopted Standard 8 addresses only the district employed supervisor, not the field supervisor from the approved program.

Adopted June 2007	Adopted November 2008
Program Sponsor, District and University Field Experience Supervisors Field supervisors provide systematic and continuing support for candidates. Based on identified criteria, field experience supervisors are carefully selected, knowledgeable and supportive of the academic content standards for students, trained in supervision, oriented to the supervisory role and evaluated in a systematic manner. Supervisory activities are evaluated and recognized. District-employed supervisors are certified and experienced in either teaching the specified content area(s) or performing the services authorized by the credential or certificate.	**District-Employed Supervisors** District-employed supervisors are certified and experienced in either teaching the specified content or performing the services authorized by the credential. A process for selecting supervisors who are knowledgeable and supportive of the academic content standards for students is based on identified criteria. Supervisors are trained in supervision, oriented to the supervisory role, evaluated and recognized in a systematic manner.

A number of questions have been raised and information is provided below for these questions:

1. **When does an institution submit its updated response to the 2008 Common Standards?**
   Each institution will submit its response to the newly adopted Common Standards at the first instance of any of the following:
   - At its next scheduled site visit
   - The next time it submits a new program for approval
   - The next time it submits an updated program document addressing revised standards

2. **If an institution has a site visit scheduled in the 2008-09 year, which set of Common Standards does it address?**
   - All institutions with site visits in 2008-09 have the option to address the 2007 Common Standards or the edited 2008 Standards.

3. **How can an institution access information about the Commission's Common Standards?**
   Commission staff has held technical assistance meeting focusing on the Common Standards. The audio archive of the meetings and all materials from the meetings are available on the Commission's web broadcast page: http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/webcasts.html.
   - August 19, 2008 addressing the Common Standards
   - October 1, 2008 addressing *Common Standard 2: Unit and Program Assessment and Evaluation*